

CNC February 25, 2013 Meeting Minutes

District Council representatives in attendance: Phil Shack, (North District and CNC Chair); Chris Leman, (Lake Union District and CNC Budget Committee Co-Chair); Laine Ross, (Downtown District and CNC Neighborhood Matching Fund Committee Chair); Irene Wall, (Northwest District Council and Neighborhood Planning Committee Chair); Tony Provine, (Northeast District); Jody Grage, (Ballard District Council and CNC Secretary); Joe Wert, (Ballard District Council); Kiku Hayashu, (Central District Council); Jim Erickson, (East District); Dick Burkhart, (CNC Transportation Committee Co-chair); Ed Marquez, (CNC Vice-chair and Greater Duwamish District Council); Bill Bradburd (CNC Budget Committee Co-chair); Chas Redmond, (Southwest District); Mat McBride, (Delridge District Council); Devor Barton, (Greater Duwamish District Council); Lauren Balter, (Magnolia/QA District Council)

Agenda and Meeting Minutes Approval

Request to move CNC legislation to top of the agenda approved.

Minutes were approved as presented.

2013 CNC goals/role of CNC and District Councils

Discussion of CNC process to approve actions including if CNC reps need to get approval from their DC or if election gives them authority to approve with consultation. Discussion of value in seeking early input on what district councils want to see addressed at CNC through inclusion of topic on DC agendas. CNC can forward items in writing to district councils for agendas, as well, though CNC doesn't have the capacity or directive to address everything the DCs might want them to address. Suggested that all district council agendas provide a time for CNC rep to report so that districts are aware of CNC and issues and reps know what is generally supported. Districts could opt out if they did not agree with action. If district did not respond, it was assumed they approved.

Regular agenda topic: How to make CNC and district councils more relevant.

Seattle Neighborhood Coalition was created in response to the feeling that CNC took too long to get anything done. Expediency is important. Need to be more vocal and active.

City Council members do not consider the CNC to be important and attend the district council meetings rather than the CNC. Feeling that city government is trying to relegate the CNC to be nothing but a discussion forum. Need to be transparent and loud. Need to better communicate the work the CNC does and its importance to the community - perhaps through a CNC outreach committee and doing more with the website. (Add to agenda item above.) Lack of attendance at the district councils is a problem as well since members share information.

Lack of staff support from DON. Web site is difficult to keep up with volunteers. Have been in preliminary discussions with DON on beefing up the web site.

Kudos to Chris Leman for compiling history of the CNC

CNC Committee Reports

Neighborhood Planning Committee/Irene Wall

Committee discussed transit community amendments to the Comp Plan. Met with Richard Conlin; CM Conlin and CM Burgess showing some concern over language of amendments. They advised committee to draft letter with concerns and send to committee. CNC members reviewed and made some minor edits to the letter. Planning Commission attended last PLUS committee language. Letter recommends that more work be done on policies and then decide if amendment is needed. Puget Sound Regional Council is working on the issue of equitable development at transit development sites.

Would like CNC to approve letter and send to PLUS committee before March 14 hearing. Discussion of need for constructive possibilities, rather than just criticism; letter did provide alternatives. Othello Station given as example of why more planning, data is needed. Discussion of ability of community to use the policies if it wants to. Discussion whether policy document or work items. Discussion of lack of fit with comprehensive plan and using transit areas as basis for changing zoning. Statement that the comprehensive plan takes precedence when it comes to planning. Need to ensure communities can decide how development can proceed. Concern over development in the Central area with many new projects and lack of retail as well as outdated area plan. Neighborhood Plan updates/action plans are very different from grassroots original neighborhood plans. Questions about outreach raised. Need expressed for ending letter with a positive statement about working with the PLUS committee.

CNC voted to approve the letter with suggested changes, with three abstentions. District Councils might also consider sending a letter to Council.

Approval to extend the meeting to 8:45.

Neighborhood Matching Fund Committee/Laine Ross

Chris Leman had circulated a letter from the Lake Union District Council concerning changes to the review process for the NMF Large Project fund. DON notified the committee in December of changes were coming in 2013, including combining the DCRT and CRT open houses. The CNC NMF committee had fought this change successfully in the past. DON rationalized the change by staff reductions and having to attend fewer meetings. Committee will draft a short letter around changes for this year and possible for 2014. Concerns over integrity of the new system being proposed/implemented. CNC alternate who served on the CRT in 2012 told of 14 meetings in a 25 day period and the open house. where first-timers were up against seasoned applicants. Too much time was spent calculating scores, rather than having in-depth discussion of project strengths and weaknesses. Discussion about DON changing the NMF Large Project process without consulting with CNC or the committee and the value of individual meetings with DCRT for both districts and applicants. District councils can send individual letters if they wish.

Motion to table the letter and send to committee for revisions approved. With suggestion to include past CRT participants, NMF applicants, etc for input into letter.